



Employer Exchange

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Y2K Compliance

No Changes in Employer Reporting

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) is proud to announce that all of our mission critical systems are now Y2K compliant. The RRB's systems for employer reporting have been updated to conform to Year 2000 standards.

The changes to our systems require no changes to the reports that employers currently send to the RRB. There is, however, a change to the annuity estimate report that the RRB sends to certain employers. See the article on AESOP changes below.

Railroad Job Vacancies

The RRB maintains a central register of separated employees with at least one year of railroad service who have declared their current availability for employment. The goal is to provide a pool of experienced labor for railroad employers.

Hiring officials are urged to report vacancies to the nearest RRB office. Upon request, the RRB can furnish employers with employee listings from the register that are tailored to your vacancy requirements. For example, we can furnish a list of all electricians with two years of experience who are willing to relocate.

Hiring experienced workers can save you \$. Hiring unemployed railroad workers will reduce the payment of unemployment benefits and can ultimately reduce employer contribution rates, particularly the need for a surcharge.

Kudos to Union Pacific. The Union Pacific (UP) Railroad has job information on their Internet site. At their suggestion, we recently linked the UP's job information site to the RRB's webpage containing job vacancies. This allows RRB website visitors quick

access to information about job opportunities with the UP. If you would like to make similar arrangements, telephone our webmaster, Marilyn Litt, at (312) 751-4387 or send e-mail to webmaster@rrb.gov.

RRB Annual Report P/C Program Is Coming

The RRB is re-developing the P/C program for creating annual and adjustment reports of service and compensation. The program will be released as a runtime version of a database software, so you will not have to buy any software. If you filed your 1998 BA-3a report on paper or disk, look for your copy in the mail this year.

E-mail

The RRB is constantly looking at ways to reduce the amount of paper that is exchanged between our agency and our customers. With the rapid growth of the Internet, we are exploring ways to exchange information electronically. The RRB is investigating ways to secure exchanges of confidential information. Send us your e-mail address and any ideas you may have about how we should use it. Also send us your ideas for new uses of the Internet.

AESOP Changes

If you receive annuity estimates from our annual Annuity ESTimate OPeration (AESOP), you will notice a few changes in 1999. With the anticipation of employees earning over 1 million dollars in lifetime earnings, we have reformatted the "Total to Date Compensation" field to accommodate the additional digits.

In compliance with Y2K standards, the "Base Year" field on the magnetic tape format will be expanded to four positions so that 1999 will be displayed instead of "99". Employers who receive AESOP on magnetic

media have been sent a letter detailing the changes. If you did not get your copy, call QRSC.

If you do not currently receive AESOP, but would like this report, contact the Quality Reporting Service Center by telephone or e-mail at the number or address listed above.

Tier II or No Tier II?

We have received a suggestion and would appreciate your opinion. Currently, employers are required to report compensation with respect to the maximum Tier amounts. In most cases Tier I and Tier II compensation are equal until the Tier II maximum is attained and then Tier I continues to be creditable until the Tier I maximum is attained. We want to know if it would be easier for your organizations to report only the Tier I amount and let the RRB calculate and record the Tier II amount. The Tier II field would be optional. If the Tier II compensation is different from Tier I and less than the Tier II maximum, (the exceptions) then you would report this information independent of the Tier I amount. If this would save you time and effort, write or e-mail us. The idea will not be implemented unless you think it is a good one. The future of this project depends on you.

If you report mechanically, your computer systems already identify and report Tier II compensation so you may prefer to not make a change, let us know this too! If you would like to discuss this idea, give us a call.

Information Available for Your Employees

The RRB publishes several booklets that explain the various benefits available to railroad workers. The two booklets, IB-2, *Railroad Retirement and Survivor Benefits*, and UB-9, *Railroad Unemployment and Sickness Benefits*, might be good additions to the packet of materials that you provide to new hires. The IB-2 and UB-9 are available online through the RRB website's "Publications" page. To request a supply of these booklets or any other RRB booklets, submit Form G-615, Employer's Supply Requisition. Form G-615 is in "Reporting Instructions to Employers" and can be downloaded from the Internet.

The following forms can be downloaded and printed from the RRB Internet site. On the home page, select 'Employer Information.' Then choose the Reporting Instructions for Employers. The forms are in the Exhibits chapter. Just click the download button.

AA-12	Notice of Death and Statement of Compensation
BA-3a	Annual Report of Creditable Compensation
BA-6a	Form BA-6 Address Report
BA-9	Report of Separation Allowance or Severance Pay
BA-10	Report of Miscellaneous Compensation and Sick Pay
BA-11	Report of Gross Earnings
G-70	Protest of Record of Service Months and Compensation
G-88a	Retirement Contact Form
G-440	Report Specification Sheet
G-615	Employer's Supply Requisition
ID-3s	Request for Lien Information, Report of Settlement
ID-3s-1	Lien Information Under Section 12(O) of the
ID-3u	Request for Section 2(f) Information

Congratulations!!!

We sincerely appreciate employers like Ventura County Railway Co. They were the first employer with employees to file their annual report of service and compensation for 1998 on January 4, 1999. The first large report was received from Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad on January 20, 1999. Great Job!!

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Forms Internet Accessible